

'A noble idealism and a sincere capacity for devotion'

Stuttgart salutes America's military veterans

Story & photos
by Hugh C. McBride

Eighty-five years to the moment after the weapons of World War I officially fell silent, members of the Stuttgart military community gathered on Panzer Kaserne Nov. 11 to remember America's military veterans and to show their support for the service members engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom and other elements of the global war on terrorism.

"Today we pause to remember and thank the men and women who know [the price of freedom] only too well," said 6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris, featured speaker at the 11 a.m. event at the Panzer flagpole.

"From the forests of Belleau Wood to the streets of Bosnia, and from the bloody beaches of Normandy to the scorched desert of Afghanistan and Iraq, American service members have paid the price of freedom with a courage and an honor that embodies all that is right about the United States of America," she added.

Virtue in service

Sponsored by American Legion Stuttgart Post 6, the ceremony included remarks by various Legion members and the placing of a wreath by Bonéy-Harris and special guest retired Col. Robert Lewis, a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Legion Post 6 President Fred Wildi, who served as the event's master of ceremonies, spoke about the effect of military service on "our minds and our hearts as well as our bodies."

"Out of blood and sweat we learned of purpose, sacrifice, tolerance, bravery and discipline," Wildi added. "These are solid foundation stones upon which a great nation was built. In our continuing quest for an honorable world peace we must cultivate these virtues."

Noble idealism

Post 6 Vice Commander Tina Talley echoed the theme of the value inherent in military service.

"If there be glory in war, it is the almost incredible spirit which it engenders," Talley said. "Let us honor those veterans who carry into ordinary affairs of life a noble idealism and sincere capacity for devotion."

Sgt. Maj. Larry Reeb, who stood

'[Throughout history] American service members have paid the price of freedom with a courage and an honor that embodies all that is right about the United States.'

Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris
6th ASG Commander

A brief history of Veteran's Day

November 11 is the anniversary of the 1918 armistice that ended World War I after four years of conflict.

In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson issued his Armistice Day proclamation, the last paragraph of which set the tone for future observances:

"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory."

In 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill making the day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia.

The name of the holiday was changed to Veterans' Day by act of Congress May 24, 1954.

source: www.patriotism.org
(excerpted from "All About American Holidays" by Mayme R. Krythe)

in formation throughout the ceremony with fellow members of the Panzer-headquartered 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), said events such as this ceremony were especially important in times of war.

"The most important thing Americans can do for their troops is show their support for them," Reeb said.

Also participating in the Nov. 11 ceremony were representatives of Boy Scout Troop 154 and Cub Scout Pack 44.



Sgt. Maj. Larry Reeb of the Panzer Kaserne-based 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), salutes the flag during Stuttgart's Nov. 11 Veteran's Day ceremony.



Members of Boy Scout Troop 154, who stood in formation throughout Stuttgart's Veteran's Day ceremony, salute during the playing of "Taps."

For more about Veteran's Day:

www.va.gov/vetsday

www.vfw.org

www.patriotism.org

'Angel Trees' return to Stuttgart

Around Nov. 21, "Angel Trees" will appear in the following locations:

Help brighten a
local child's
Christmas

Army Community Service
Patch Barracks PX and Commissary
Kelley Barracks Commissary
Robinson Barracks CX

Remember those
in need over
the holidays

For more information call Nancy Piper at 430-5312/civ. 0711-680-5312